

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 17-18, and 25 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a first message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising an indication of a subscriber identity of a terminal that is to terminate the connection, each terminal in a communications system being associated with any of a plurality of operators and being addressable by the subscriber identity formatted to include a first field and a second field, the first field being, for at least some of the subscriber identities, indicative of the operator with which a respective subscriber identity is associated;

determining the operator to which the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection is assigned, and content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming a modified subscriber identity having as a second field at least a content of the second field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection and having as a first field the content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming a second message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising the modified subscriber identity; and

transmitting the second message to a service control function configured to analyse a subscriber identity received in a message requesting a tariff for a connection to determine a tariff based on the first field of the received subscriber identity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a first message requesting a tariff for a connection, the first message comprising a subscriber identity field and an indication of the type of the connection, wherein the subscriber identity field comprises an indication of a subscriber identity of a terminal that is to terminate the connection, each terminal in a communications system being associated with any of a plurality of operators and being addressable by the subscriber identity formatted to include a first field and a second field, the first field being, for at least some of the subscriber identities, indicative of the operator with which a respective subscriber identity is associated;

determining the operator to which the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection is assigned, and content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming a modified subscriber identity having as a second field at least a content of the second field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection and having as a first field the content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming a second message requesting a tariff for a connection comprising a subscriber identity field comprising the modified subscriber identity and the indication of the type of the connection; and

transmitting the second message to a control function configured to analyze a subscriber identity received in a message requesting a tariff for a connection to determine a tariff based on the first field of the received subscriber identity and the indication of the type of the connection.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining includes looking up the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection in a first database configured to store a list of subscriber identities and for each subscriber identity an indication of the operator with which the respective subscriber identity is associated and retrieving any indication of an operator associated therewith in the first database.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the indication of an operator is the content of the first field that is associated with that operator.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, ~~and wherein~~ wherein the determining comprises looking up the indication of an operator in a second database configured with a list of indicators of operators and for each indicator content of the first

field that is associated with that operator and retrieving content of the first field associated therewith.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subscriber identity field of the message requesting the tariff for a connection does not include the first field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, if a determination is made that the content of the first field of the subscriber identity of the terminal is associated with the operator to which that subscriber identity is assigned, the second message requesting the tariff for a connection is formed with a subscriber identity field comprising the subscriber identity unmodified.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the messages are initial detection point messages.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the messages are session initiation protocol INVITE messages.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subscriber identity is a telephone number.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in any claim 1, wherein each first field is an operator prefix.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the service control function comprises a service control point of an intelligent network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each message requesting the tariff for a connection comprises a source field for indicating a source of the message, the source field of the first message comprises an indication of the source of the first message and the source field of the second message comprises an indication of the source of the first message.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:
controlling, by the service control function, the determining of the tariff for the connection; and
applying the tariff to the connection.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection is a connection for transfer of data.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an operator determination unit configured to receive a first message, comprising an indication of a subscriber identity of a terminal that is to terminate a connection, each terminal in a communications system configured to be associated with any of a plurality of operators and configured to be addressable by the subscriber identity formatted to include a first field and a second field, wherein the first field is configured to be, for at least some of the subscriber identities, indicative of a operator with which a respective subscriber identity is associated;

the operator determination unit further configured to determine the operator to which the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection is assigned, and content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

an identity modifier configured to receive the content and form a modified subscriber identity having as a second field at least a content of the second field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection and having as a first field the content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

a message former configured to receive the modified subscriber identity and form a second message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising the modified subscriber identity; and

a message transmitter ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit the second message to a service control function configured to control the analysis of a subscriber identity received in a message requesting a tariff for a connection to determine a tariff based on the first field of the received subscriber identity.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving ~~by an operator determination function of a network~~ a first message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising an indication of a subscriber identity of a terminal that is to terminate the connection, each terminal in a communications system being associated with any of a plurality of operators and being addressable by the subscriber identity formatted to include a first field and a second field, the first field being, for at least some of the subscriber identities, indicative of the operator with which a respective subscriber identity is associated;

determining means for determining, ~~by the operator determination function,~~ the operator to which the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection is assigned, and content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming means for forming, ~~at the operator determination function,~~ a modified subscriber identity having as a second field at least a content of the second field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection and having as a first field the content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

forming means for forming, ~~at the operator determination function,~~ a second message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising the modified subscriber identity; and

transmitting means for transmitting the second message to a service control point configured to analyze a subscriber identity received in a message requesting a tariff for a connection to determine a tariff based on the first field of the received subscriber identity.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the service control function is a charging control function.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the service control function is a tariff control function.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the service control point comprises a charging control function.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the service control point comprises a tariff control function.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the service control point comprises a charging control function.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the service control point comprises a tariff control function.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an operator determination unit configured to receive a first message, comprising an indication of a type of the connection and an indication of a subscriber identity of a

terminal that is to terminate a connection, each terminal in a communications system configured to be associated with any of a plurality of operators and configured to be addressable by the subscriber identity formatted to include a first field and a second field, wherein the first field is configured to be, for at least some of the subscriber identities, indicative of a operator with which a respective subscriber identity is associated;

the operator determination unit further configured to determine the operator to which the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection is assigned, and content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

an identity modifier configured to receive the content and form a modified subscriber identity having as a second field at least a content of the second field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection and having as a first field the content of the first field that is associated with that operator;

a message former configured to receive the modified subscriber identity and form a second message requesting a tariff for a connection and including a subscriber identity field comprising the modified subscriber identity and the indication of the type of the connection; and

a message transmitter ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit the second message to a service control function configured to control the analysis of a subscriber identity received in a message requesting a tariff for a connection to determine a tariff based on the first field of the received subscriber identity and the indication of the type of the connection.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further configured to

have access to a first database that stores a list of subscriber identities and for each one an indication of the operator with which the respective subscriber identity is associated,

look up the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection in the first database, and

retrieve any indication of an operator associated therewith in the first database.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the indication of an operator is the content of the first field that is associated with that operator.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further configured to

have access to a second database that stores a list of indicators of operators and for each one content of the first field that is associated with that operator,

look up the indication of an operator in the second database, and

retrieve content of the first field associated therewith.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the subscriber identity field of the message requesting the tariff for a connection does not

include the first field of the subscriber identity of the terminal that is to terminate the connection.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further configured that if a determination is made that the content of the first field of the subscriber identity of the terminal is associated with the operator to which that subscriber identity is assigned, the second message requesting the tariff for a connection is formed with its subscriber identity field comprising the subscriber identity unmodified.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the messages are initial detection point messages.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the messages are session initiation protocol INVITE messages.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein each subscriber identity is a telephone number.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein each first field is an operator prefix.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein each message requesting the tariff for a connection comprises a source field for indicating a source of the message, the source field of the first message comprises an indication of the source of the first message and the source field of the second message comprises an indication of the source of the first message.